



BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 17, 2016 – 6:30 PM

Rockport Town Hall Annex

Present: Board members Dr. Sydney Wedmore - Chair, Dr. Russell Sandfield, Dr. Sydney Jimenez, Dr. Bruce Cohen, Health Agent Leslie Whelan, Assistant Town Administrator Mitchell Vieira, Food Inspector Laura Osmond, and Administrative Assistant Marianne Peters.

6:30 p.m: Chairman Wedmore called the meeting called to order.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

None

SEPTIC SYSTEM UPGRADE – REQUEST FOR VARIANCE – 37 SQUAM ROAD:

John Judd of Gateway Consulting requested variance/set-back relief from wetlands for failed septic system at a difficult lot which abuts wetlands, has a culvert behind property, and a 25' Conservation Commission 'no build zone' requirement and therefore cannot meet 100' setback; (they are at 51' feet) can meet other criteria and has watertight tank. Dr. Wedmore made a motion to approve; Dr. Sandfield moved to approve, Dr. Jimenez seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the request for variance.

SEAVIEW FARM, KEN LANE, REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM FOOD CODE:

Ken Lane of Seaview Farm on South Street requested approval to extend temporary permit into a seasonal permit (to cook on a grill to serve Seaview Farm's grass-fed burgers at the Farm Stand). Has hot and running water for sanitation purposes and hand-washing as well as a restroom with hot and cold running water available for patrons. Would have 1-2 picnic tables and cooking would be atop a grill on existing cement pad. Food Inspector Laura Osmond stated that she has reviewed all considerations and inspected thoroughly; she recommended (based on Food Code) that it be considered "Seasonal Temporary" and be issued a permit as such along with a permit fee of \$100.00. Dr. Wedmore made a motion to approve; Dr. Jimenez moved to approve, Dr. Cohen seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve a Seasonal Temporary Permit.

2013 FDA FOOD CODE POTENTIAL ADOPTION:

Food Inspector Laura Osmond discussed the benefits of adopting the 2013 Federal Food Code which is more rigorous than the 1999 Food Code which Rockport currently follows; most states are adopting. Ms. Osmond discussed training for the food establishments as the newer code includes several changes with respect to temperatures and technologies that are more science based with respect to food safety. Discussed ideas about training and a roll-out plan; Food Inspector mentioned waiting for neighboring boards to adopt as well to perhaps coordinate adoption and rollout. Chairman Wedmore stated that Rockport should go ahead irrespective of what the other towns do. Regulator training to begin this week and Food Inspector will be attending. Assistant Marianne Peters will work with Food Inspector on coordination of informational session for the establishments; perhaps in October/November in their less busy season. Food Inspector to update Board at next meeting as to other towns' roll-out and training plans. Dr. Wedmore made a motion to approve; Bruce Cohen moved to approve and adopt the 2013 Food Code likely for implementation January 1, 2017; Dr. Jimenez seconded, and it was voted unanimously to adopt the 2013 Federal Food Code.

MOQUITOS, TICKS, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Dr. Cohen stated that the Head of Infectious Diseases at the Mass Dept. of Public Health, Dr. Alfred DeMaria has offered to present an informational session on infectious diseases for the community; i.e. a tick-borne and mosquito-related session for the public likely about Zika, Eastern Equine, and others. Dr. Sandfield recommended that others boards of health be invited, and the session open to public; all concurred. Administrative Assistant Marianne Peters to work with Drs. Cohen and DeMaria on organizing the session in the near future.

STRATEGIES FOR STREAMLINED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY EDUCATION:

Board discussed several ways to educate the public on a variety of health-related issues including opioids; the website being an important source of information; Dr Jimenez pointed out Salem's website as a potential model. Dr. Jimenez discussed the members and department working together cohesively to get disseminate the info to the public quickly and determine which information is put on the website and that it be scientific-based and with more Rockport- and Cape Ann-related resources. Discussed putting specific information with respect to opioids or other matters; where Rockport's drop box is located, local resources, etc. , Board and department could work on things independently but then review together before disseminating.

FEES CHARGED VS. STAFF TIME:

Continuation of discussion on potential increase of license/permit fees to be more commensurate with time expended in processing, performing, etc., (the inspections needed by Health Agent, Food Inspector, Pool Inspector, etc.). Health Agent provided a spreadsheet that shows direct hours expended are covered by fees for septic, pools, well, funeral director, and tobacco permits. Administrative Assistant compiled list of 10-15 communities for comparative purposes. Dr. Cohen inquired if our fees are consistent with other communities and suggested to focus on time-intensive ones; i.e. Food Establishment fees. With respect to time allotted/expected by Food Inspector on annual basis, Dr. Wedmore expressed to Assistant Town Manager that the Food Inspector Budget will need to be funded appropriately in future as it seems under-funded for the past couple of years relative to time needed to do the inspections and other work necessary and with the new food code adoption resulting in more hours needed. Mr. Vieira advised the board to notify him/Board of Selectmen sometime before September for consideration at the Fall Town Meeting. Administrative Assistant to work with Dr. Wedmore on compiling the information.

ENDORSEMENT SOUGHT FOR BALLOT INITIATIVE TO REDUCE SALMONELLA RISK FROM FACTORY EGGS:

Health Agent Whelan received inquiry/request from Citizens For Farm Animals to review and potentially support a ballot initiative that they seek boards of health endorsement on as (that being a salmonella risk to have eggs from chickens raised in factory-like settings). Board members recommended that Agent obtain from them the scientific evidence on salmonella risk and to provide more information on the subject for their review.

FOOD INSPECTOR UPDATE:

In addition to previously discussed Food Code adoption earlier in meeting, Food Inspector Laura Osmond discussed distributing handouts to the establishments at the outdoor events such as Motif 1 Day, Farmer's Markets, etc. as a way of keeping food safety awareness on their minds and the information readily available. Administrative Assistant to work with Food Inspector on obtaining brochures for handouts at events, the Board of Health Office, and Town's website.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE:

Marianne Peters updated the board on work on anti-idling awareness (working with GDT to run article, put on website, distributed to Chamber for visitor booths, will distribute information, fliers, and emails to establishments around town), Diaper Drive with Public Health Nurse (successful; 2000 diapers and several hundred wipes received from donors and local organizations/stores. GDT and Beacon ran several articles and photos), Measles Outbreak (need for process/procedure for reporting; will meet with nurse and will update at the next board meeting), Fee Schedule Research (has obtained approximately 15 North Shore towns' fees schedules for comparison sake), Dog Waste (drafting article and will send to members for approval - with photos and location of doggy waste dispensers, proper disposal methods). Kevin St. Peter will put dispensers up; Assistant to draft email to inn owners to ask to spread the word. Discussed Gloucester's stricter ordinances and that they will often ask for dog walkers to produce doggy waste bag and if they cannot, they can ticket the owner; failure to produce proper method of disposal. Discussed polite reminder signs being purchased/erected similar to the anti-idling signs that just went up and to raise awareness).

HEALTH AGENT UPDATE:

Lobster Pool: As recent testing at the site indicates, there are no alternatives other than a tight tank for wastewater disposal and as such, the tight tank remedy/method will remain.

Sandy Bay Estates Update: June 9th scheduled hearing with Town Counsel. Assistant Town Manager Vieira added that Counsel served notices to several banks about receivership; this has added pressure for the resolution of several outstanding health code violations.

Mass in Motion: Steve Winslow (Coordinator) offered to present to Board of Health and discuss ideas and grant monies available for Cape Ann towns. Mass in Motion matches groups with resources and ideas as well as potential grant monies; for example, he has met with Millbrook Park reps to assist in their project. Mass Motion goal is to foster healthy eating and increase physical activity by changing physical environment and availability of healthier foods. Mr. Winslow/Mass in Motion could be a source of funding for various departments; our DPW has expressed an interest in working with him and the Town of Essex is working with him and taking advantage of his resources. Agent asked if Board members would like him to present; members responded affirmatively. Agent to invite Mr. Winslow to an upcoming meeting.

Tobacco Sales Regulations: Many communities are raising the purchase age to 21 and also changing what type of products are available to sell; i.e. no flavored vapors or tobacco products (except menthol) are allowed. Twenty one will likely be the state law as more and more towns are adopting. Dr. Cohen mentioned that communities that have adopted the age 21 requirement filters down to younger ages as well; less younger people are accessing tobacco; for example, Needham's adoption of the 21-year requirement has shown a drop in the younger people using tobacco products. Rockport Housing Authority has said that smoking is no longer allowed in their units or within 15 feet of the building.

Bees: Health Agent had received separate inquiries/complaints about bees/beekeeping from two residents. Dr. Cohen noted that many communities are developing beekeeping regulations and asked if perhaps Rockport may want as well; members thought not at this time as it does not seem to be an issue currently.

Animal Inspector: Dr. Jimenez inquired about status position. Assistant Town Manager Vieira stated that perhaps Kevin St. Peter may take over the Animal Inspector duties as he's currently the Animal/Dog Control Officer. Dr. Wedmore discussed coyote frequencies and that perhaps with little

children out, etc., the matter should be addressed. Kevin St. Peter has gotten calls and advised remedies to keep them at bay (ammonia-soaked rags, etc.). Mr. Vieira stated that several calls to the police have been received lately. Dr. Jimenez mentioned known coyote dens at Cape Hedge Beach. Dr. Wedmore would like Kevin St. Peter to draft information and regulations about coyotes for review as the problem is becoming more frequent.

REVIEW MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2016 MEETING:

Health Agent asked that minutes be changed to reflect (with respect to 87-89 Thatcher Road) that it read 'one septic system' rather than two systems and under the minutes approved for March meeting be changed to 'she replied she had not' witnessed sewage at Sandy Bay Estates when originally asked in March 8, 2016 Board of Health Meeting.

Dr. Wedmore made a motion to approve minutes; Dr. Jimenez moved to approve minutes with corrections as noted, Dr. Sandfield seconded, and it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes with noted corrections.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

June 28, 2016 – Agenda Prep Meeting on June 20 with Dr. Cohen. July 26th discussed as the July meeting date.

8:48 p.m. Dr. Wedmore recommended a motion be made to adjourn meeting; Dr. Sandfield moved to adjourn, Dr. Jimenez seconded, and it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.